

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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H PASS OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN SIKES

DEFENSE FOR OSAF/LL - LT. COL. JACKSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, OREP, XF, XA
SUBJECT: CODEL SIKES - PRESS RELEASE

1. CODEL SIKES REQUESTS FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS BE
PASSED TO HIS OFFICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:
CONGRESSMAN BOB SIKES (D-FLA.) TODAY WARNED THAT CONTINUED
U.S. DELAYS IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA
AND NORTH YEMEN COULD SERIOUSLY THREATEN ACCESS TO OIL FOR THE
WEST AND UNDERMINE SAUDIA ARABIAN EFFORTS FOR PEACE AND
STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
SIKES, IN ROME FOR BRIEFINGS WITH U.S. STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS,
WAS ENROUTE FROM EGYPT TO LIBYA.

3. THE FLORIDA CONGRESSMAN HELD LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH
OFFICIALS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND N. YEMEN. INCLUDED WERE CROWN
PRINCE FAHD, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER; PRINCE SULTAN, MINISTER
OF DEFENCE AND AVIATION, PRINCE SAUD, MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, ALL FROM SAUDI ARABIA, AND PRESIDENT SALIH, FOREIGN
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MINISTER AL-ASNAJ, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER JUNAYD, DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER AL-KIBSE, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
PEOPLES CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AL-ARASHI FROM NORTH YEMEN.

4. SIKES SAID FAILURE OF THE USG TO MOVE SWIFTLY WHEN
OVERTURES WERE MADE BY S. YEMEN MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE RAPID CONSOLIDATION BY THE RUSSIANS OF THEIR HOLD ON THAT COUNTRY. AN ESTIMATED 5000 TO 7000 CUBANS HAVE BEEN POSITIONED AT THE IMPORTANT PORT OF ADEN AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. ANOTHER PORT DEVELOPMENT NEAR OMAN WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN RUSSIA'S ABILITY TO THREATEN SHIPMENTS OF OIL ESSENTIAL TO THE WEST AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. THE RECONQUEST OF ERITREA WITH RUSSIAN ARMS AND CUBAN SUPPORT CAN BE EXPECTED TO OPEN THE PORT OF MASSAWA, GIVING THE RUSSIANS THE ABILITY TO DOMINATE SHIPPING BOTH FROM THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE RED SEA TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE SUEZ CANAL.

6. THE NORTH YEMENESE ARE VERY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT AN INVASION BY THEIR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR. HERETOFORE, NORTH YEMEN HAS ACCEPTED RUSSIAN ARMS AND ADVISORS. THEY SEE A CONTINUATION OF THIS POLICY TO BE AN ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNIST CONTROL. THEY NOW SEEK U.S. SUPPORT AND ALLIANCE WITH SAUDI ARABIA.

7. THE SAUDIS SEE THE THREAT OF CONTINUED COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENT AS A VERY REAL DANGER WHICH WOULD LEAVE WESTERN ORIENTED, ANTI-COMMUNIST POWERS ENCIRCLED BY RUSSIAN GUNS.

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8. THE CONGRESSMAN CHARGED THAT AT PRESENT THE U.S. IS STILL FOLLOWING A POLICY OF TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE. THE NATIONS WHICH OPPOSE COMMUNISM ARE AFRAID TO DEPEND UPON US.

9. A PROMISE OF WEAPONS TO SOMALIA AT THE TIME THAT NATION EXPELLED THE RUSSIANS FROM THE STRATEGIC PORT OF BERBERA ON THE HORN OF AFRICA - EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS ADEN - STILL HAS NOT BEEN KEPT. A YEAR AGO PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE OF SOMALIA TOLD CONGRESSMAN SIKES THE RUSSIANS PLANNED A FORCE OF 15,000 CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA FOR THEIR CONQUEST OF THE OGADEN. THE STATE DEPARTMENT INSISTED THE NUMBER WOULD BE NEARER 500. THE ACTUAL NUMBER WAS 17,000.

10. THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA IS NOW THREATENED FROM WITHIN BECAUSE OF U.S. DALLIANCE.

11. SINCE LEAVING WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, CONGRESSMAN SIKES PARTICIPATED IN THE UN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON DIS-ARMAMENT IN GENEVA, MET WITH SALT OFFICIALS THERE, ATTENDED MILITARY BRIEFINGS IN RAMSTEIN, GERMANY AND NATO BRIEFINGS IN BRUSSELS. HE THEN FLEW TO BAGHDAD IN IRAQ FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THAT NATION'S HARD LINE POLICIES TOWARD

THE WEST AND THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR.

12. SIKES SAID IRAQ, WHICH IS NOW ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR OIL PRODUCERS, IS PURSUING A POLICY OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH CAN OPEN SOME TRADE DOORS TO THE U.S., BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION OF A CHANGE IN THEIR OFFICIAL ATTITUDE. THE IRAQIS BLAME THE U.S. FOR THE ARAB PROBLEM WITH ISRAEL.

13. SIKES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN J. FLYNT (D-GA.) WHO HAS NOW RETURNED TO THE STATES. SIKES IS PROCEEDING TODAY TO LIBYA, AND THENCE TO NIGERIA, ZAIRE, AND ANGOLA FOR FURTHER STUDIES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING U.S. INFLUENCE IN THE AREA AND PROMOTING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

14. HIS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND RHODESIA, AND PARTICIPATION IN FURTHER SALT TALKS MAY HAVE TO BE TERMINATED OR ABBREVIATED BECAUSE OF THE IMPENDING VOTE ON OVERRIDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VETO OF THE MILITARY PROCUREMENT BILL.

16. UPON RETURNING TO THE STATES, THE CONGRESSMAN WILL REQUEST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS ON HIS FINDINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARIES VANCE AND BROWN AND OTHER RANKING U.S. OFFICIALS. END QUOTE.
HOLMES

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